



STATE OF MISSOURI

**CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM AND
SHOW ME HEALTHY BABIES**

ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DECEMBER 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established in 1998, the Missouri Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides essential health services to children in low-income families. As of December 2022, more than 111,000 children who would otherwise not have access to health coverage were enrolled in the program. Research has shown that access to healthcare helps improve both short-term and long-term outcomes for children. The investment in coverage for unborn children through the State of Missouri's (State's) Show Me Healthy Babies (SMHB) program helps improve birth outcomes for babies through the provision of prenatal care for pregnant mothers. For the State, it has been a winning investment. It has helped keep Missouri's children healthy at minimal costs to taxpayers.

This CHIP and SMHB annual report describes in further detail the history and current operations of the Missouri CHIP program, which include the SMHB program, as well as an evaluation of the program's goals. These quality goals, presented below, align with the State's overall quality strategy for MO HealthNet.

GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3	GOAL 4	GOAL 5
				
Reduce the number of children and unborn children in Missouri without health insurance coverage.	Ensure appropriate access to care.	Promote wellness and prevention.	Ensure cost-effective utilization of services.	Promote member satisfaction with experience of care.

While there is positive information to report on each of these goals, Goal 4 in particular shows that CHIP has helped steer children to preventive care and better access to care in the community. This results in fewer unnecessary emergency room visits and hospital stays. Missouri's children are healthier as a result, and fewer State resources were spent.

Since 2001, the rate of asthma-related hospital admissions and preventable emergency department visits among children enrolled in CHIP has declined. Pediatric asthma is a chronic, but treatable, condition and regular access to preventive care provided through CHIP has meant that families are able to better manage the condition and avoid traumatic and costly emergency department visits. Overall trends in preventable emergency department visits in the state are declining as a result of these interventions.

Between 2001 and 2021, the rate of preventable hospitalizations decreased by 48% for those enrolled in CHIP and by 51% for those enrolled in Missouri's non-CHIP Medicaid program. This is compared to a decline of 40% for those not on Medicaid or CHIP.



MO HealthNet for Kids – Medicaid/CHIP Program

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• helps improve outcomes for Missouri's children• makes good economic sense for Missouri | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is helping to keep children healthier now and in the long term.• means relative minimal costs to the State |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CHIP is financed jointly by the state and federal governments. | |

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INTRODUCTION

The scope of this report is to address the statutory requirement to report on Missouri's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Show Me Healthy Babies (SMHB) as required by State law (Sections 208.650 and 208.662.10 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri). Broadly, the report includes an evaluation of CHIP goal performance, including those outlined for the SMHB program.

THE HISTORY OF CHIP

When Congress enacted CHIP in 1997, there was growing concern about the rising uninsured rate among children in families with annual incomes just above the Medicaid income thresholds. Before CHIP was enacted, 10 million children, or 15 percent of all children were uninsured.¹ Since CHIP's passage twenty-five years ago, the national rate of uninsured children has steadily declined. The child uninsured rate decreased from 6.4 percent in the last quarter of 2020 to 4.5 percent in the third quarter of 2022. Federal Medicaid policy changes that were implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to these trends with approximately 6.6 million children gaining Medicaid or CHIP coverage from January 2020 to November 2022 (an 18.6 percentage increase).² In 2020, Missouri's CHIP population started at 84,161 participants. By December 2022, CHIP coverage had reached 111,804 participants.



While improved access to health care coverage is the overarching goal, several additional benefits are tied to expanded access to health care coverage. Notably, CHIP coverage is more affordable for families than either exchange or employer-sponsored coverage. Children with CHIP coverage are more likely to have a usual source of care, including dental care, and are more likely to have had a well-child visit in the past year compared to children without insurance.³

Research has shown access to Medicaid and CHIP has significant benefits to children and their families. With access to Medicaid, children in low-income families receive essential healthcare services and experience long-term benefits, including better health status, greater academic achievement, and increased future earnings. In addition, families with access to Medicaid and CHIP are less likely to experience financial insecurity and have medical debt.⁴

¹ <https://www2.census.gov/prod2/popscan/p60-202.pdf>

² [aspe-childrens-health-coverage.pdf](https://www.aspe-childrens-health-coverage.pdf) (hhs.gov)

³ <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Recommendations-for-the-Future-of-CHIP-and-Childrens-Coverage.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/reports/2019/06/12/470996/childrens-health-care-access-improve-universal-coverage-plans/>

STATES AND THE CHIP PROGRAM



While CHIP has been successful in reducing the rate of uninsured children, it has also empowered states to design systems of coverage that meet state-specific needs. States can operate CHIP programs as a CHIP Medicaid expansion, a separate CHIP program or a combination of these two approaches. As of September 2007, the Missouri CHIP program has operated through a combination approach. Missouri receives a federal CHIP allotment based on its recent CHIP spending plus a growth factor.

Missouri has 2 years to spend each allotment and the federal government can redistribute any unspent funds to other states.⁵

The CHIP FMAP rate of 64.96% is significantly higher than the standard FMAP rate. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023, approximately \$189 million was spent on services for CHIP populations, with \$144 million financed by the federal government.

With such a large percentage of CHIP funding being financed by the federal government and dependent on both authorization and appropriations enacted by Congress, uncertainty about CHIP reauthorization and appropriations in recent years has created concerns among states about potential interruptions in CHIP services. In 2018, Congress passed legislation to provide CHIP funding through FY 2027, which provided longer-term clarity for CHIP operations at the state level.⁶ The E-FMAP rate, which added 23% to the regular CHIP FMAP rate, was reduced in FY 2019. Through FY 2020, an additional Enhanced-Federal Match Percentage (E-FMAP) rate of 11%, rather than the previous 23%, was provided. As of FY 2021, the 11% E-FMAP was no longer provided after being phased out at the end of FY 2020.

State administrative rule (13 CSR 70-4.080) establishes the methodology used to determine CHIP enrollment eligibility.⁷ Generally, in order for a child to be eligible for CHIP, a family must have an annual modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) of less than 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL). For children in families with MAGI between 150% and 300% of the FPL, there is an additional eligibility test of access to affordable coverage (affordability is defined on a scale from \$115 to \$311 per month based on family size and income).

⁵ <https://www.macpac.gov/subtopic/financing/>

⁶ A continuing resolution signed into law on January 22, 2018 (P.L. 115-120) and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 signed into law on February 9, 2018 (P.L. 115-123) provided CHIP funding through FY 2027.

⁷ <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/cmsimages/adrules/csr/current/13csr/13c70-4.pdf>

Comprehensive Eligibility Requirements for Families with Gross Income of More Than 150% of the FPL

Parents/guardians of uninsured children must certify the child does not have access to affordable employer-sponsored insurance (ESI) or other affordable, available health insurance coverage.



Infants under one-year-old in families with gross incomes of less than 196% of the FPL are exempt from premiums.



Children in families with gross incomes of more than 150% and up to 225% of the FPL are eligible for coverage once a premium payment is received.

Eligibility for the program may begin at the beginning of the month; however, coverage cannot begin until the premium payment is received.



Children in families with gross incomes of more than 226% and up to 300% of the FPL are eligible for coverage 30 calendar days after receipt of the application, or when the premium payment is received, whichever is later.

Any child identified as having special health care needs – defined as a condition that, left untreated, would result in the death or serious physical injury of a child – who does not have access to affordable ESI will be exempt from the 30-day waiting period in order to be eligible for services, as long as the child meets all other qualifications for eligibility.



The 30 calendar day delay is not applicable to children already participating in the program when a parent's income changes.

Pregnant women not otherwise eligible with gross incomes of less than 300% of the FPL are eligible for coverage under the SMHB program. SMHB participants can be determined presumptively eligible and have no cost-sharing requirements.



Premiums:

- Total aggregate premiums cannot exceed 5% of the family's gross income for a 12-month period.
- Premiums must be paid prior to delivery of service.
- Premiums will be updated annually and take effect on July 1 of each calendar year. A chart describing premiums effective July 1, 2023 is included as Appendix 1.



SMHB PROGRAM DETAILS

Missouri operates the SMHB program as a separate CHIP coverage option, which was created by State legislation enacted in 2014. SMHB was established to provide health coverage to unborn children by expanding coverage to mothers. The SMHB program enrollment began in 2016. The program was born from the recognition that children of women who have access to Medicaid during their pregnancy have better health outcomes that reach into adulthood, including reduced rates of obesity and hospitalizations, and improvements in oral health.⁸ Without the SMHB program, the newborn would still be covered under Medicaid or CHIP, but associated healthcare costs would be greater due to the lack of prenatal care. With health coverage through SMHB, there is purposeful benefit of improving the health of the expectant mother, and in turn, the health of the child at birth.

The SMHB program is separate from CHIP in that it covers pregnant women between 201% and 300% of the FPL. Covered services for an unborn child enrolled in the SMHB program include all prenatal care and pregnancy-related services for the mother that benefit the health of the unborn child, and promote healthy labor, delivery and birth. This also includes services such as care management, prenatal and postpartum home visits, breastfeeding education and electric breast pumps.

SMHB

- Provides health coverage to unborn children by expanding coverage to mothers.
- Enrollment began in 2016.
- Covers pregnant women between 201% and 300% of FPL.
- Covers all prenatal care and pregnancy related services.

SMHB Eligibility Requirements

Pregnant



Household income up to 300% of the FPL



Uninsured



No access to ESI or affordable private insurance which includes maternity benefits (prenatal, labor and delivery, and post-partum coverage).



Is not eligible for any other MO HealthNet program, except Uninsured Women's Health Services, Extended Women's Health Services.



⁸ <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/MedicaidSmartInvestment.pdf>

SMHB has no waiting periods and is designed to provide medical assistance to the unborn child. The child will be covered from enrollment up to one year after birth (at that time the child may be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP). To help foster a child's healthy upbringing, certain eligible mothers may continue to receive pregnancy-related and postpartum care for up to 12 months after birth.

Table 1 illustrates income levels for Medicaid, CHIP and SMHB for children and pregnant women.

TABLE 1 – CHIP AND SMHB INCOME ELIGIBILITY					
PROGRAM / AGE GROUP	0%-110% FPL	111%-148% FPL	149%-150% FPL	151%-196% FPL	197%-300% FPL
Children 0–1	Medicaid (Non-Premium)	Medicaid (Non-Premium)	Medicaid (Non-Premium)	Medicaid (Non-Premium)	CHIP (Premium)
Children 1–5	Medicaid (Non-Premium)	Medicaid (Non-Premium)	CHIP (Non-Premium)	CHIP (Premium)	CHIP (Premium)
Children 6–18	Medicaid (Non-Premium)	Medicaid/CHIP (Non-Premium)	CHIP (Non-Premium)	CHIP (Premium)	CHIP (Premium)
SMHB	SMHB (Non-Premium)	SMHB (Non-Premium)	SMHB (Non-Premium)	SMHB (Non-Premium)	SMHB (Non-Premium)

According to a study published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, prenatal care is associated with fewer preterm births⁹, with far-reaching impacts on the overall health of the infant:

Medical Issues

Babies born prematurely suffer from a host of medical problems and are at considerable risk for long term impairment, including physical disability, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and attention-deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

NICU Infants

Medical experts estimate that a quarter of infants leaving neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) have chronic health problems. These chronic problems, including developmental delays and disabilities, put premature babies at risk for a variety of poor social outcomes as they age, including the inability to hold employment, extended residence in a parent's household, lowered socio-economic status, lower cognitive test scores, and behavioral challenges.

Infant Death Risk

In the presence of pregnancy complications, the lack of prenatal care was associated with increased preterm birth rates ranging from 1.6-fold to 5.5-fold for various antenatal high-risk conditions.¹⁰



⁹ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/11355248_The_impact_of_prenatal_care_on_neonatal_deaths_in_the_presence_and_absence_of_antenatal_high-risk_conditions

¹⁰ [https://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(02\)00404-0/fulltext](https://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(02)00404-0/fulltext)

Benefits of SMHB

The State's investment in prenatal care for low-income women through its SMHB program not only has the potential to improve health outcomes for newborns, but can also help conserve precious State resources.

Prenatal Care Generates Cost Savings (Particularly for Women with High-Risk Pregnancies)

Intensive prenatal care reduced hospital and NICU admissions		Cost Savings between \$1,768 to \$5,560 per birth, according to March of Dimes ¹¹
Average hospital charge for an infant of normal weight – \$3,200		Average hospital charge for low birthweight babies ¹² – \$27,200

As discussed, there is growing evidence that connects the benefits of access to health coverage to better health outcomes and other social and economic benefits, which would be lost without CHIP and the SMHB program. Health care costs for families with low incomes would increase due to higher out-of-pocket expenses like deductibles. The burden would be particularly significant for children with special health care needs due to the high cost of marketplace plans for that population. Some families might not be able to afford the increased costs, resulting in more uninsured children.¹³ Without the SMHB program, healthier births would decline, but Missouri would remain obligated to cover these children after birth, likely at a greater cost due to their increased healthcare needs.

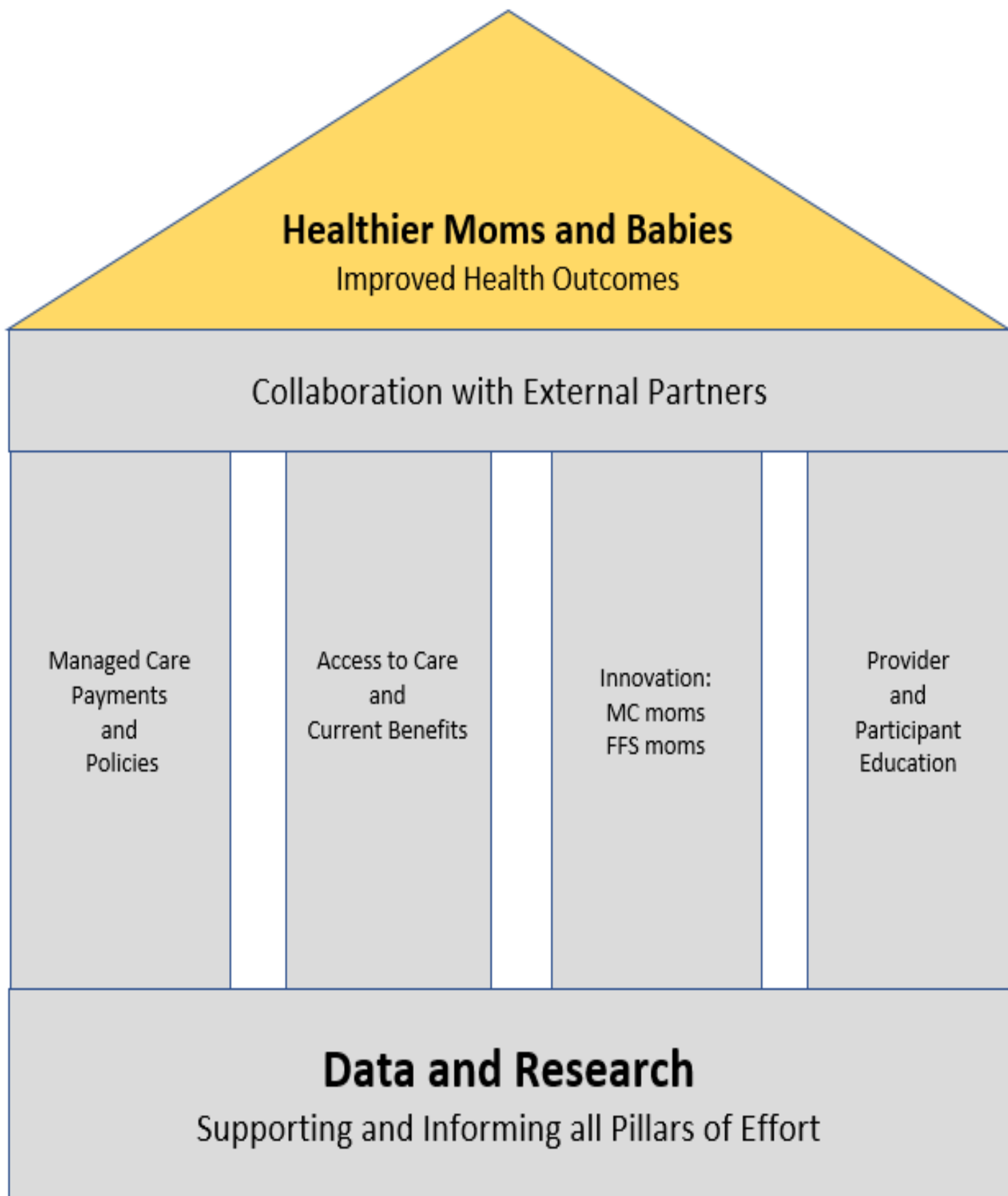
In 2022 the MO HealthNet Division started an initiative focused on improving maternal and infant outcomes. MHD has a dedicated group of individuals involved in various working groups, including Managed Care Payments and Policies, Access to Care and Current Benefits, Innovations, Provider and Participant Education, and a Data and Research team. These working groups will develop smaller goals and action items to work toward the greater goals of reducing low birth weight babies, very low birth weight babies, preterm births, and overall improving maternal and infant health outcomes.

One step Missouri has taken toward improving maternal and infant health outcomes is a State Plan Amendment (SPA) approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to extend postpartum coverage from 60 days following the end of the pregnancy to one year following the end of the pregnancy. Both Medicaid and CHIP SPAs were submitted in order to ensure more participants would benefit from this additional coverage. Included participants are pregnant targeted low-income children, targeted low-income pregnant women, and women approved for SMHB on the basis of income. The coverage extension does not include SMHB participants approved due to an ineligible immigration status. These SPAs have an effective date of July 7th, 2023.

¹¹ <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20160219.053241/full/>

¹² <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/birthweight/state/ALL>

¹³ <https://familiesusa.org/resources/the-childrens-health-insurance-program-chip/>



EVALUATION OF CHIP GOALS

INTRODUCTION TO ANALYSIS

As previously noted, the Department of Social Services (“DSS” or the “Department”) is required to submit an annual report on CHIP and SMHB that provides analysis on specific objectives/items identified by the Legislature. DSS is also required, by CMS, to develop a Quality Improvement Strategy (QIS). Missouri’s QIS, which was updated in 2022, provides the framework to communicate the State’s vision, goals, objectives, and measures that address access to care, wellness and prevention, chronic disease care, cost-effective utilization of services, and customer satisfaction. The QIS includes specific metrics that will be used to measure progress on a yearly and longer-term basis for each goal. While the QIS does not require measures to be broken out by CHIP or SMHB, it does include metrics that are specific to children as well as to pre- and post-natal care.¹⁴ DSS is presenting its required analysis of the CHIP and SMHB programs in alignment with the framework outlined in the QIS quality goals. The report is structured according to the following goals, along with the relevant data and accompanying analysis that is required by statute:

GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3	GOAL 4	GOAL 5
				
Reduce the number of children and unborn children in Missouri without health insurance coverage.	Ensure appropriate access to care.	Promote wellness and prevention.	Ensure cost-effective utilization of services.	Promote member satisfaction with experience of care.

¹⁴ See Quality Improvement Strategy: 2022 Goals, Objectives and Measures; available at <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/mc/pages/quality-oversight.htm>

DSS believes focusing this report on quality goals is helpful in providing consistent analysis and support for its mission.

EXPLANATION OF DATA SOURCES

This report uses previously aggregated, readily available data from the State of Missouri and the following sources:

- Health Status Indicator Rates – Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Section for Epidemiology for Public Health Practice, CY 2021
- U.S. Census Data, 2000–2022
- Claims data from CY 2022
- Eligibility data from CY 2022
- Wraparound Service claims data – Department of Mental Health (DMH), CY 2022 DMH
- Health Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) data from 2014–2022
- Consumer Assessments of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) data from CY 2022
- Journal articles and health publications produced by the federal government and national health policy researchers (credited in the footnotes).

The most recent data available from these sources was used in compiling this report. To facilitate the comparison of longitudinal data across this year's report and previous years' reports, the same data sources have been used where possible and continue to be reported on a calendar year basis.

The COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) provided continuous enrollment for members without annual redetermination assessments. This allowance affects the accuracy of data provided throughout the report, beginning with calendar year 2019. Data is expected to level out following the completion of the PHE unwind that began in June 2023.

CHIP/SMHB GOAL 1

GOAL 1

Reduce the number of children and unborn children in Missouri without health insurance coverage.

The mission of DSS is “to empower Missourians to live safe, healthy, and productive lives.”¹⁵

Furthermore, the vision of the MO HealthNet Division is to build a best in class Medicaid program that addresses the needs of Missouri’s most vulnerable in a way that is financially sustainable. Reducing the number of uninsured children and uninsured unborn children is fundamental to these goals and would not be possible without the CHIP and SMHB programs.



Below are details of enrollment information with separate discussions for the CHIP and SMHB programs. As described above, the benefits of access to health coverage directly link to better health outcomes and other social and economic benefits, but those benefits can be difficult to measure.

CHIP Enrollment

Information provided on Tables 2, 3 and 4 below illustrates the number of CHIP participants by month, age, race and gender. Over the course of CY 2022, monthly CHIP enrollment ranged from 105,249 to 111,804 participants. Note these numbers do not include SMHB.

¹⁵See Quality Strategy: Mission (at pg. 10); available at <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/mc/pages/quality-oversight.htm>

**TABLE 2 – CY 2022 CHIP PARTICIPANTS BY
ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY (EXCLUDES SMHB)**

MONTH	MEDICAID/CHIP (NON-PREMIUM) ¹⁶	CHIP (NON-PREMIUM)	CHIP (PREMIUM)	TOTAL
January	60,086	475	45,125	105,686
February	60,988	475	45,453	106,916
March	61,163	464	45,838	107,465
April	63,559	349	41,341	105,249
May	63,666	349	41,556	105,571
June	63,860	347	41,907	106,114
July	64,935	333	42,080	107,348
August	65,313	332	42,390	108,035
September	65,662	332	42,516	108,510
October	65,936	330	42,610	108,876
November	66,562	329	43,434	110,325
December	67,059	325	44,420	111,804

Data Source: CY 2022 eligibility data

¹⁶ As a result of provisions contained in the Affordable Care Act children ages 6–18 in families with incomes between 100% of the FPL and the MAGI equivalent of 133% of the FPL are now a mandatory group under the Medicaid program. Before that requirement, Missouri covered these kids under CHIP. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved continuing to use CHIP funding to cover those kids who would have been CHIP under pre-MAGI eligibility determinations. Therefore, they are included in the report, although they are in a Medicaid eligibility category, and referred to as “Medicaid/CHIP non-premium”.

**TABLE 3 – DECEMBER 2022
MEDICAID/CHIP (NON PREMIUM)**

GENDER	AGE	MEDICAID/CHIP (NON- PREMIUM)
Male	5 to 9	11,711
	10 to 14	12,227
	15 to 19	10,426
	Total	34,364
	5 to 9	10,995
Female	10 to 14	11,535
	15 to 19	10,165
	Total	32,695
Total		67,059

**TABLE 4 – DECEMBER 2022
MEDICAID/CHIP (NON PREMIUM)**

RACE ETHNICITY	MEDICAID/CHIP (NON-PREMIUM)
White / Other	46,067
Asian	1,367
Black/African American	11,133
American Indian/Alaskan Native	185
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	233
Multi-Racial	1,342
Unknown	6,732
Total	67,059

SMHB Enrollment

The information provided below illustrates the number of SMHB participants by month. This information was summarized based on eligibility data provided by DSS. Due to the nature of the program, enrollment in any given month may decrease as women will no longer be in the program when their eligibility ends.

TABLE 5 – CY 2022 SMHB PARTICIPANTS

Month	SMHB	Month	SMHB
January	3,390	July	2,946
February	3,012	August	2,980
March	3,006	September	3,003
April	2,884	October	3,019
May	2,895	November	3,072
June	2,863	December	3,147

Data Source: CY 2022 eligibility data

SMHB is instrumental in improving birth outcomes and providing coverage to unborn children who would otherwise not have access to health insurance. In the first year of SMHB (CY 2016), 1,069 babies were enrolled in SMHB. In CY 2022, 2,669 babies were enrolled. All of these children became eligible for regular CHIP/Medicaid upon birth.

TABLE 6 – CHILDREN BORN TO SMHB WOMEN BY MONTH		
MONTH	YEAR	SMHB INFANTS
January	2022	208
February	2022	170
March	2022	235
April	2022	191
May	2022	198
June	2022	193
July	2022	247
August	2022	239
September	2022	243
October	2022	229
November	2022	260
December	2022	256
Total Current Enrollment Ending Dec 31, 2022		2,669

Data Source: CY 2022 eligibility data

Table 6 shows the number of children born to SMHB women in 2022. Table 7 compares newly enrolled pregnant women by month in the SMHB program and traditional Medicaid (MPW stands for MO HealthNet pregnant women). The MPW new enrollees were limited to the Pregnant Women Medicaid Eligibility (ME) codes (18, 45 and 61). Over the course of the year there were 2,535 unique pregnant women covered by the program. Due to the nature of the program, the enrollment in any given month may decrease as women will no longer be in the program when their eligibility ends. On December 31, 2022, there were 1,536 pregnant women enrolled in the SMHB program and 999 MPW.

TABLE 7 – NEWLY ENROLLED PREGNANT WOMEN BY MONTH

Month	Year	SMHB Women	MPW
January	2022	100	49
February	2022	96	53
March	2022	124	58
April	2022	146	62
May	2022	100	62
June	2022	129	62
July	2022	167	122
August	2022	150	91
September	2022	122	120
October	2022	113	103
November	2022	128	90
December	2022	161	127

Data Source: CY 2022 eligibility data

SMHB Deliveries Compared to Other Programs

Tables 8 and 9 illustrate enrollment and deliveries across the SMHB, CHIP and non-CHIP (Medicaid) programs in Missouri. In comparing 2021 to 2022, the number of CHIP deliveries increased by approximately 46%, non-CHIP (Medicaid) deliveries decreased by approximately 3%, and SMHB deliveries decreased by approximately 10%. There was an increase in both CHIP and SMHB enrollment.

Note: The large increase in CHIP deliveries is attributed to PHE data issues. Once the unwinding process of the PHE is complete in accordance with federal regulations, the total is expected to level out.

TABLE 8 – TOTAL DELIVERIES IN 2022

	SMHB	CHIP	NON-CHIP (MEDICAID)
Managed Care	2,282	13	25,567
Fee-for-Service (FFS)	91	0	1,109
Total	2,373	13	26,676

TABLE 9 – CHIP AND SMHB ENROLLMENT AND DELIVERY CHANGES CY 2021 AND 2022

	DEC 2021 ENROLLMENT	DEC 2022 ENROLLMENT	CHANGE	2021 DELIVERIES	2022 DELIVERIES	CHANGE
CHIP	101,840	111,804	8.9%	7	13	46.2%
SMHB	2,923	3,147	7.1%	2,122	2,373	10.6%

Based on the eligibility criteria for the SMHB program, enrollees in general were previously uninsured. Comparison points to the SMHB program would be most relevant to pregnant women in the uninsured population; however, since the comparison population is uninsured, information is unavailable regarding their utilization of health care services. Therefore, this report focuses on different proxies or indicators that are likely related to the receipt of proper prenatal care.

Table 10 shows the number of births identified with very low birth weight (VLBW), which is defined by a birth weight under 1500 grams. Similar to the delivery counts shown in Table 10, these counts were determined by analyzing 2022 claims data. These metrics can serve as an indication of the prenatal services being received by pregnant mothers in each of the eligibility groups. It is expected that without adequate prenatal care, the prevalence of VLBW deliveries increases.

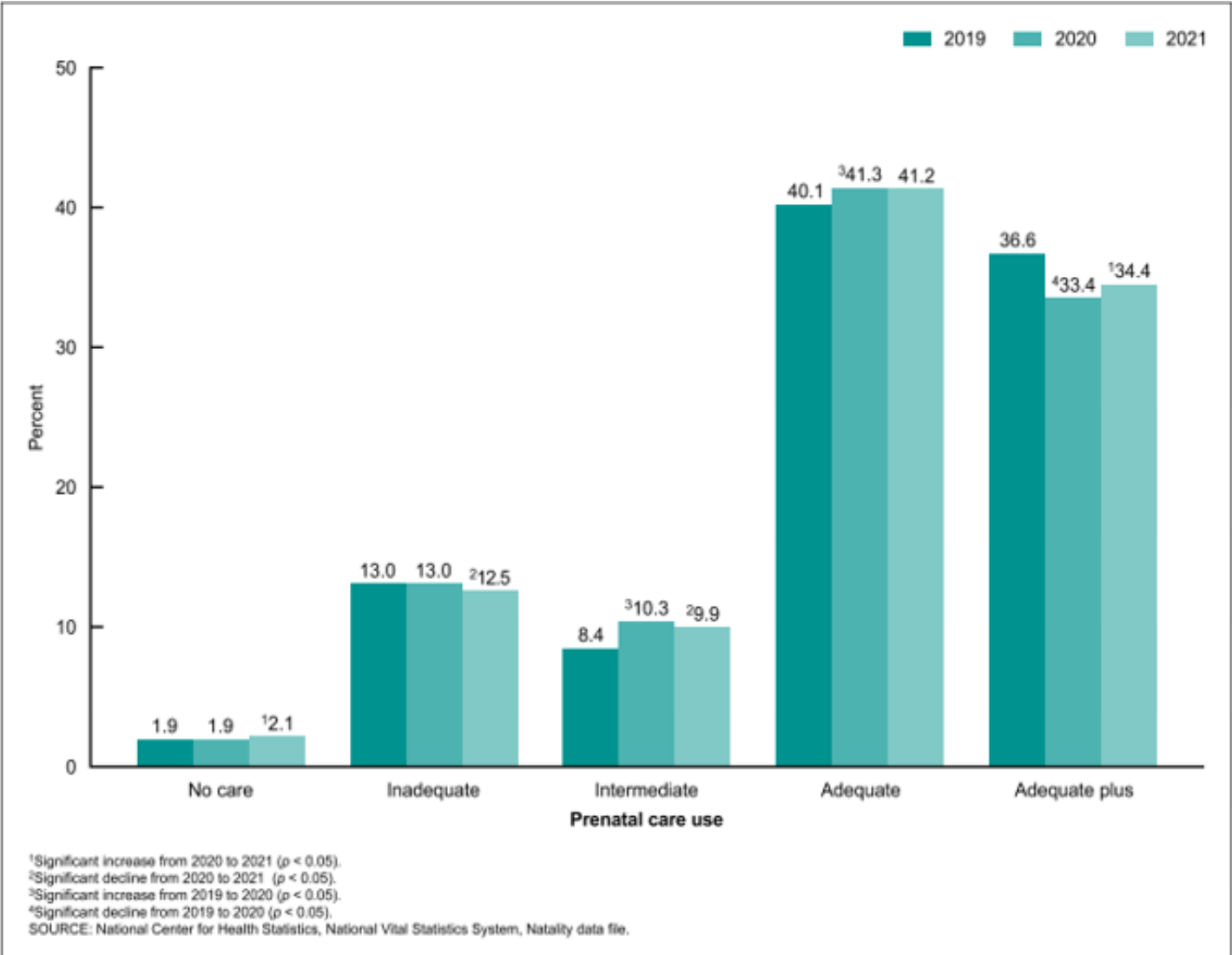
TABLE 10 – VLBW COUNT

	SMHB	CHIP	NON-CHIP
Managed Care	18	0	484
FFS	4	0	256
Total	22	0	740

As discussed above, studies have shown that the earlier a pregnant woman has access to health coverage, the more likely she is to receive prenatal services. Figure 1 below contains results from a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics monitoring prenatal care from 2019-2021. According to the study, the percentages of inadequate and intermediate care declined and adequate plus care increased.¹⁷

¹⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr72/nvsr72-04.pdf>

Figure 1 – Percentage of mothers with prenatal care, based on Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index: United States, 2019-2021



Overall Impact of CHIP and SMHB on Health Care of Missouri Residents

The introduction to this report provides details on studies that have analyzed the impact of health insurance coverage on children’s health. Studies clearly show that children with insurance have better health outcomes and higher academic success rates than uninsured children. Notably:

- Studies suggest there is a positive correlation between access to health insurance coverage and academic achievement.¹⁸ Indeed, a 2016 report published by the Kaiser Family Foundation demonstrated the success of the CHIP program beyond improved health outcomes; research delineated a correlation between CHIP enrollment and improvement in school attendance, performance and motivation to pursue higher education.¹⁹
- Emerging evidence suggests that the health benefits continue through adulthood.²⁰
- A 2016 report of compiled research published by the Kaiser Family Foundation found both Medicaid and CHIP provide broad benefits and cost-sharing protections for low-income children. Children enrolled in Medicaid received a comprehensive benefit package that includes the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, long-term care, many rehabilitative services, and service provided at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Under EPSDT, children are guaranteed comprehensive coverage including access to physical and mental health therapies, dental and vision care, personal care services and durable medical equipment.²¹
- In nine of ten studies cited in the Congressionally-mandated evaluation of CHIP, rates of unmet need were reduced by 50% or more as compared to pre-CHIP rates. Evidence further indicates that increased access is accompanied by reduced emergency department use.²²

¹⁸ <http://jhr.uwpress.org/content/51/3/727.short>

¹⁹ <https://www.kff.org/report-section/childrens-health-coverage-the-role-of-medicaid-and-chip-and-issues-for-the-future-issue-brief/>

²⁰ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4785872/#R49>

²¹ <https://www.kff.org/report-section/childrens-health-coverage-the-role-of-medicaid-and-chip-and-issues-for-the-future-issue-brief/>

²² <https://www.kff.org/report-section/the-impact-of-the-childrens-health-insurance-program-chip-issue-brief/>

CHIP/SMHB GOAL 2

GOAL 2

Ensure appropriate access to care

After a child is enrolled in CHIP, it is imperative to ensure the child has access to care to take full advantage of the program. Access can be defined by, among other things, availability of providers accepting CHIP/SMHB participants who are located a reasonable distance from the participant's home. DSS measures access in managed care by reviewing provider directories, panel status, appointment availability, monitoring complaints, and travel time or distance standards.



The appointment time and distance standards are addressed in the QIS. In addition, DSS reviews CAHPS results to monitor participants' experiences with the Medicaid and CHIP programs. The CAHPS data is useful when considering whether members are receiving appropriate access to care.

In addition, the statute requires the Department to consider the effect of the CHIP program on the number of children covered by private insurance. Appropriate access to care also means ensuring that individuals who have access to private health insurance are utilizing that coverage.

Relevant CAHPS Information

CAHPS results for three important indicators related to children's access to both routine and specialty care are included in Table 11. Results for Missouri's CHIP program show that Missouri is above the national average for the following measures: getting care quickly, the preventive care access, and specialty care access.

TABLE 11 – CAHPS INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO CARE FOR CHILDREN ENROLLED IN CHIP (2023)

CAHPS MEASURE	MISSOURI	NATIONAL HMO AVERAGE
In the last six months, when your child needed care right away, how often did your child get care as soon as he or she needed?	90.40%	89.18%
In the last six months, when you made an appointment for a check-up or routine care for your child at a doctor's office or clinic, how often did you get an appointment as soon as he or she needed?	84.78%	84.61%
In the last six months, how often did you get an appointment for your child to see a specialist as soon as he or she needed?	83.46%	86.36%

Effect of CHIP on Number of Children Covered by Private Insurers

It is important to consider the effect of CHIP on the number of children covered by private insurance, and whether the expansion of health care coverage to children whose gross family income is above 185% FPL has any negative effect on these numbers.

When CHIP reauthorization legislation passed into law in 2008, Congress required states to adopt efforts to ensure that “the insurance provided under the State child health plan does not substitute for coverage under group health plans.”²³ In Missouri’s CHIP program, a child must not currently have health insurance or access to affordable health insurance through a parent’s employer. In addition, the State utilizes an affordability calculator to determine whether affordable insurance is available to a child in the private marketplace. Lastly, children within a CHIP eligible household with a Modified Adjusted Gross Income over 150%, up to but not including 300% of FPL, will be required to pay a premium in exchange for coverage.²⁴

Evidence from 2013 to 2022, as shown below in Figure 3, demonstrates that the rate of both ESI and “direct purchase” insurance has increased slightly.²⁵ Both are indicators that CHIP has not been substituted for private insurance coverage. Missouri’s rate of ESI and “direct purchase” insurance also stands above national trends (52.4% ESI nationally versus 54.90% in Missouri in 2022; 7.9% “direct purchase” insurance nationally versus 7.7% in Missouri in 2022). Beginning in 2016, the rate of uninsured children in Missouri also increased until 2019. Due to the impact the Covid-19 pandemic had on data collection, 2020 data for the Types of Insurance among Children in Missouri (Figure 2) was not released. Data collection resumed and was released in 2021 showing a decrease in the rate of uninsured children and continued to decrease in 2022.

These data suggest that the expansion of the CHIP program has had little to no impact on the number of children covered by private insurance, and in fact, Missouri is outpacing the rest of the nation in maintaining private health insurance rates, both in overall percentage and over the last ten years. Figures 2-3 illustrate these ten-year trends.

²³ 42 USC 1397bb(b)(3)(C)

²⁴ <https://www.medicaid.gov/CHIP/Downloads/MO/MO-17-0002.pdf>

²⁵ <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-281.html>

Figure 2 - Type of Insurance Among Children in Missouri

Figure 3 - Type of Insurance Among Children Nationally

Data Source: Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2022 Report

NOTE: Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 data is unavailable for Figures 2 and 3

CHIP/SMHB GOAL 3

GOAL 3

Promote wellness and prevention

Ultimately, providing health insurance to children and unborn children is expected to result in enhanced access to preventive care. This preventive care should, in turn, promote and impact wellness and overall health outcomes. In reviewing whether CHIP and SMHB coverage has furthered DSS' goal of promoting wellness and prevention activities, it is insightful to review the results of certain HEDIS measures. In addition, as required by statute, the discussion under Goal 3 also addresses the impact of CHIP on providing a comprehensive array of community-based wraparound services for seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) children and children affected by substance use.



HEDIS Measures

HEDIS (Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set) is a tool used by more than 90% of US health plans to measure performance on certain aspects of care and service.²⁷ DSS requires its managed care organizations (MCOs) to report on certain HEDIS measures, several of which are helpful to review when considering how DSS has made progress toward its goal of promoting wellness and prevention.

Missouri operates a Performance Withhold Program based on HEDIS measures.²⁸ The program withholds two-point-five percent (2.5%) of the per-member per-month payment (PMPM) to the contracted managed care organizations. Payment is then released on an annual basis based upon the health plan's improvement on the selected HEDIS measures.

DSS does not currently require HEDIS results to be stratified by Medicaid and CHIP; therefore, this report includes combined data for Medicaid and CHIP populations. While HEDIS includes a variety of measures, for purposes of this section of the report DSS is focusing on three specific measures: (i) Well-Child Visits in the First 15 Months of Life, (ii) Child & Adolescent Well-Care Visits (3-21 years), and (iii) members age 2–20 with dental benefits who had at least one dental visit during the measurement year.

²⁷ <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/>

²⁸ <https://dss.mo.gov/business-processes/managed-care-2017/bidder-vendor-documents/2022ManagedCarePerformanceWithholdTechnicalSpecifications.pdf>

TABLE 12 – HEDIS INFORMATION*

HEDIS MEASURE	HEDIS 2023	HEDIS 2022	HEDIS 2021	HEDIS 2020	HEDIS 2019	HEDIS 2018
Percent of members with six or more well-child visits in the first 15 months of life	54.2%	50.1%	48.8%	61.3%	55.9%	61.8%
Percent of members with well-care visits between ages 3–21**	46.3%	42.6%	45.5%	58.1%	58.6%	65.7%
Percent of members age 2–20 with dental benefits who had at least one dental visit during the measurement year	42.4%	43.4%	42.3%	55.3%	49.5%	45.0%

*The HEDIS Measure year includes data from the previous calendar year. For example, HEDIS 2023 reflects data from calendar year 2022.

**HEDIS Measure Percent of members with well-child visits between ages 3-6 changed in HEDIS 2021 to Percent of members with at least one comprehensive well-care visit between ages 3-21.

Community-Based Wraparound Services for Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Children and Children Affected by Substance Abuse

Wraparound services are a class of treatment and support services provided to a SED child and/or the child's family with the intent of facilitating the child's functioning and transition toward a better mental health state. Wraparound services include family support services, case management, respite care, targeted case management, community support services, transportation support, social and recreational support, basic needs support and clinical/medical support.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) have developed joint protocols and guidelines for the provision of wraparound services. Funding is provided by a combination of state general revenue (DMH) and federal match dollars (MHD). DMH coordinates and oversees the delivery of these services.

DSS and DMH data on CHIP program eligibility, MCO enrollment and wraparound service utilization for CY 2022 were used for the purpose of this analysis. However, beginning in July 2017, DMH received a grant for a demonstration project that involved significant change to how services are reimbursed. As a result, payment for many services went from a FFS model to a bundled per diem payment. Additionally, DMH implemented a new payment system in July of 2021 resulting in a new baseline of wraparound service data for CY 2022 utilization rates.

While the MCOs are not required by contract to provide wraparound services, they often do so when it is cost effective as an alternative to more intensive levels of care. The average child receiving MC wraparound services received slightly more services than the average child receiving FFS wraparound services, as illustrated in Table 13 below.

The statistics below, while informative, cannot be used on their own to determine the quality of wraparound services received by each population. Missouri continues to work with the Certified Community Behavioral Health Organizations (CCBHO) involved in the demonstration project to improve their claims data related to wraparound services and has made progress towards receiving daily claims data. The demonstration project has been extended through September 2025. The data reflected in the below charts do not include CCBHO data at this time.

Tables 13 and 14 show utilization rates of wraparound services by type for CY 2022.

TABLE 13 – QUANTITY OF WRAPAROUND SERVICE UNITS

WRAPAROUND SERVICES	TIME PERIOD	FAMILY SUPPORT	OTHER CASE MANAGEMENT	RESPITE	TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT	OTHER WRAPAROUND SERVICES	COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES
FFS	1/2022 – 6/2022	97	26	0	36	0	1,905
	7/2022 – 12/2022	0	11	0	9	1	762
MCO	1/2022 - 6/2022	214	60	0	22	4	4,766
	7/2022- 12/2022	0	12	0	39	14	1,242

Data Source: DMH wraparound claims data

TABLE 14 – WRAPAROUND SERVICE UNITS PER CHILD

WRAPAROUND SERVICES	TIME PERIOD	FAMILY SUPPORT	OTHER CASE MANAGEMENT	RESPITE	TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT	OTHER WRAPAROUND SERVICES	COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES
FFS	1/2022 – 6/2022	4.7	1.3	0	1.7	0	92.3
	7/2022 – 12/2022	0	1.4	0	1.2	0.1	97.3
MCO	1/2022 – 6/2022	4.2	1.2	0	0.4	0.1	94.1
	7/2022 – 12/2022	0	0.9	0	3.0	1.1	95.0

CHIP/SMHB GOAL 4

GOAL 4

Ensure cost effective utilization of services



As stated in the QIS, cost-effective utilization of services is critical to the Department’s ability to meet its mission of building a best in class Medicaid program that addresses the needs of Missouri’s most vulnerable in a way that is financially sustainable. In evaluating cost-effective utilization of services, DSS reviewed data around preventable hospitalizations, emergency department utilization, SFY 2022 expenditures for CHIP and SMHB, and select HEDIS measures.

Preventable Hospitalization Summary

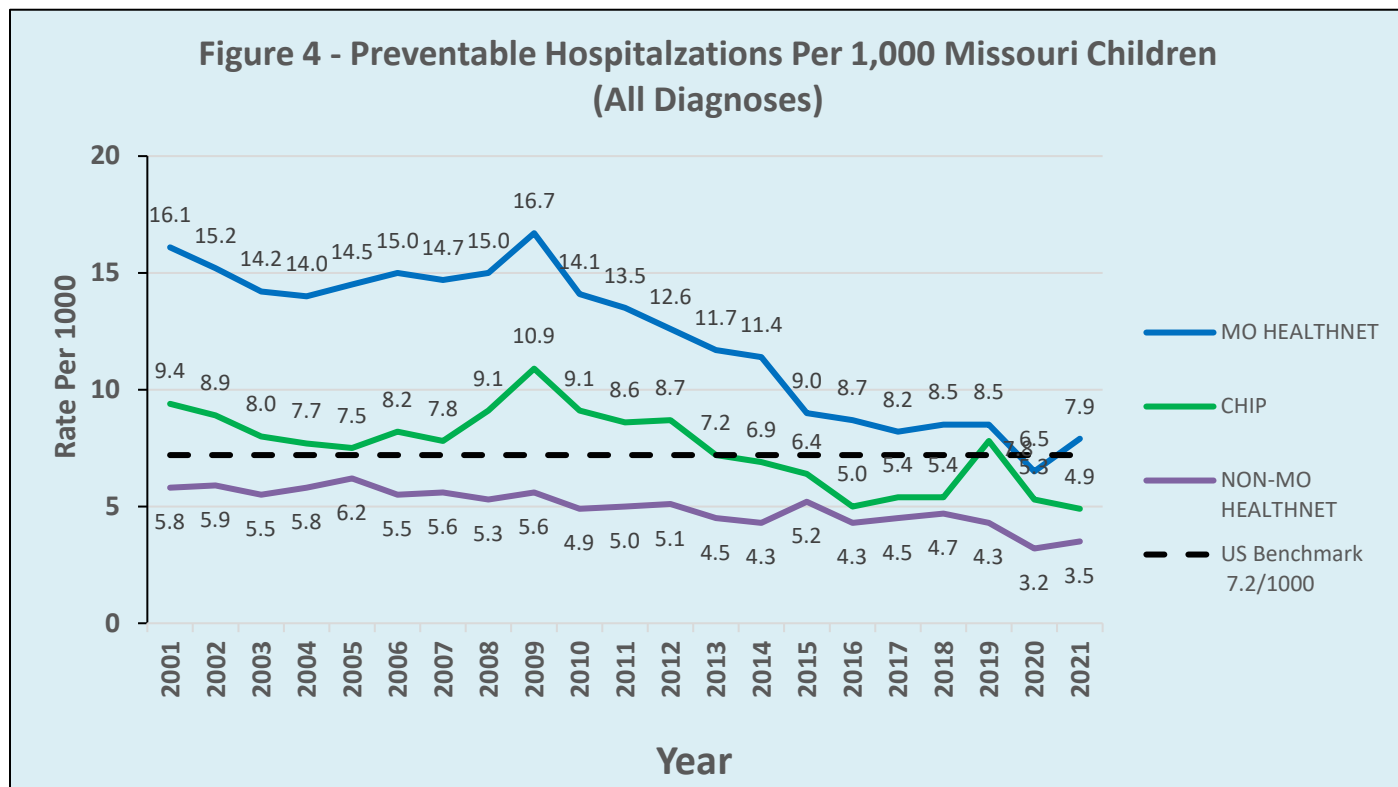
The data presented below look at four hospital indicators including emergency department use and hospitalizations. For CY 2021, three of the four indicators stayed relatively the same when comparing 2020 to 2021, however, all four indicators remain close to national benchmarks (lower scores are better).

Preventable Hospitalizations

From 2001 to 2021, preventable hospitalizations for the CHIP population decreased by 48%. During these time, preventable hospitalizations for the MO HealthNet (Medicaid children) population decreased by 51% while the preventable hospitalizations for the non-MO HealthNet group (children in Missouri who are not on Medicaid or CHIP) decreased by 40%.

In 2021, the CHIP population’s preventable hospitalizations per 1,000 children was 4.9, which is approximately 32% below the national benchmark of 7.2 per 1,000.

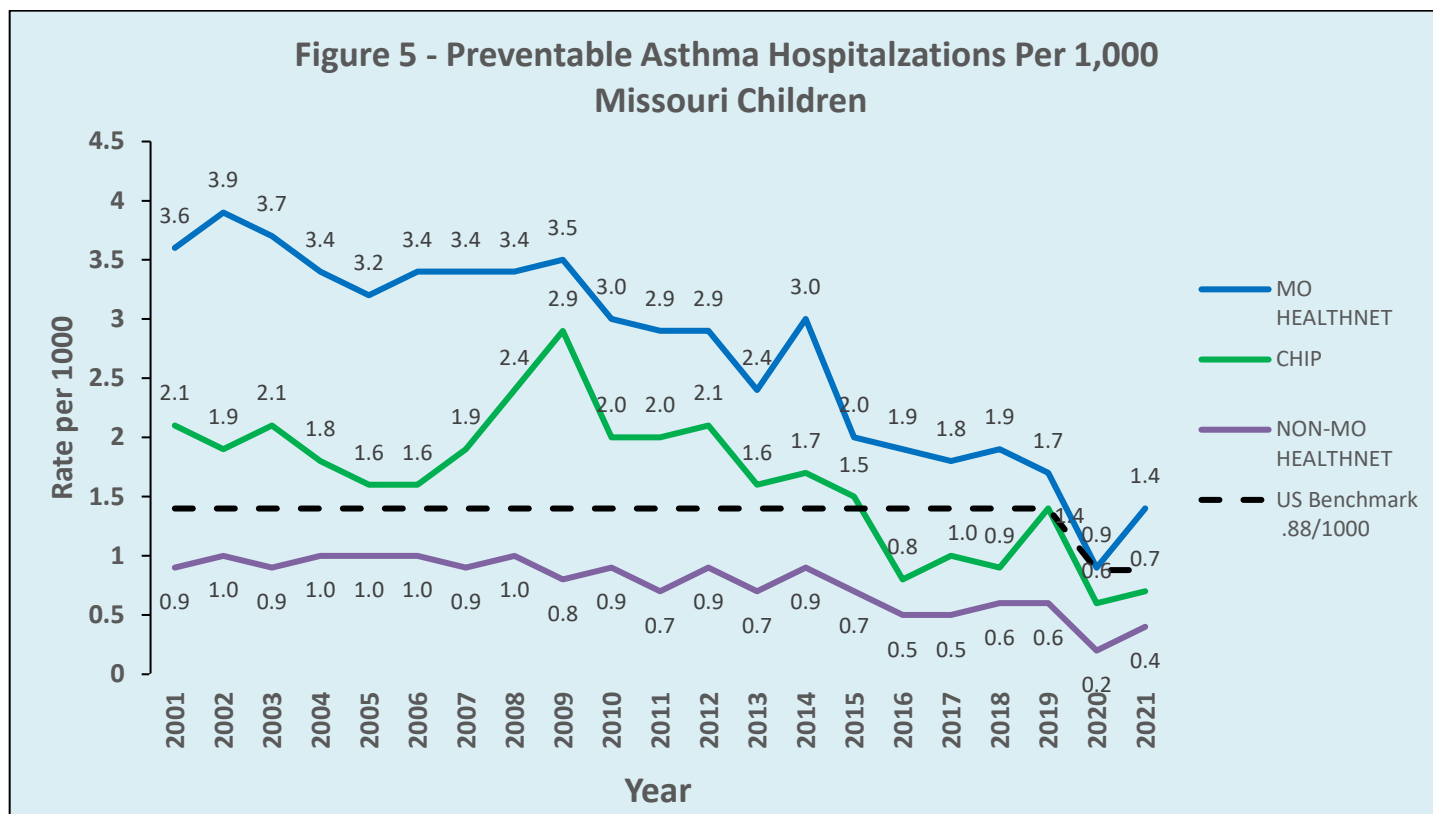
Notably, the MO HealthNet preventable hospitalizations rates continue to reduce since 2001 with a slight increase from 2020 to 2021. This is likely due to hospitalizations at extreme lows in 2020 due to COVID. These rates continue to move closer to the non-MO HealthNet population preventable hospitalization rates.



Data Source: DHSS Health Status Indicator Rates

Preventable Asthma Hospitalizations

Since 2014, preventable hospitalizations due to asthma have historically decreased for the CHIP population and in 2021, the CHIP group's rate of 0.7 preventable asthma hospitalizations per 1,000 children was 20% below the national benchmark rate of .88 preventable asthma hospitalizations.

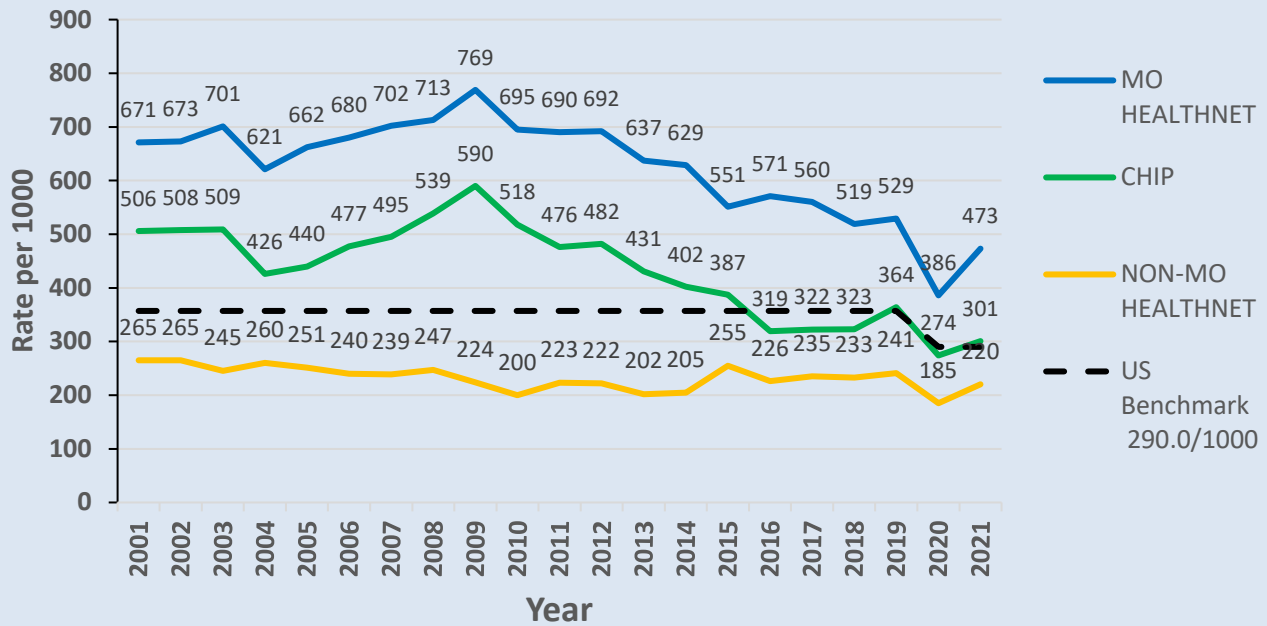


Data Source: DHSS Health Status Indicator Rates

Emergency Department Visits

In 2021, the CHIP group's rate of 301 emergency department visits per 1,000 children was 4% higher than the national benchmark rate of 290 emergency department visits. Notably, the CHIP program has seen a decrease of 41% from 2001 to 2021 in emergency department visits. Over the same period, emergency department visits decreased by 30% for the MO HealthNet (Medicaid children) population and by 17% for the non-MO HealthNet group (children in Missouri who are not on Medicaid or CHIP).

Figure 6 - ER Visits Per 1,000 Missouri Children

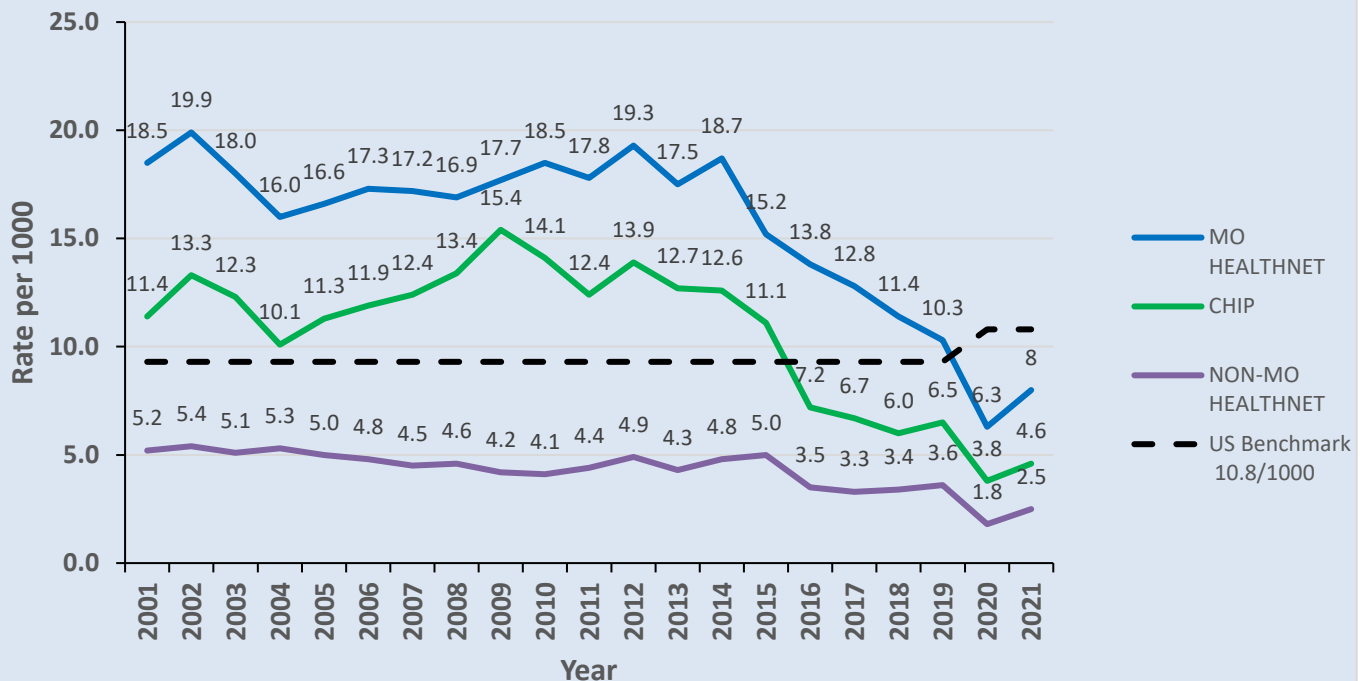


Data Source: DHSS Health Status Indicator Rates

Asthma Emergency Department Visits

In 2021, the continuation of asthma emergency department visits for the CHIP population was lower than the national benchmark rate. Missouri continues to see a substantial decline in this area. The CHIP 2021 rate of 4.6 asthma emergency department visits per 1,000 children was 81% lower than the national benchmark rate of 10.8 visits per 1,000 children.

Figure 7 - Asthma ER Visits Per 1,000 Missouri Children



Data Source: DHSS Health Status Indicator Rates

A summary of the below indicators from 2021 is presented in Table 15. In 2018, MO HealthNet implemented an asthma education and in-home environmental assessment program for youth with uncontrolled asthma. This program helps further reduce ER utilization among the targeted population.

Detailed data by region and by year are included as Appendix 2 of this report. The COVID-19 PHE led to a significant decline in both hospitalizations and emergency department visits during 2020 and 2021, thus leading to the dramatic percentage decreases shown in Appendix 2. The data is beginning to show slight improvements from 2020 to 2021 and we anticipate these rates to continue trending upwards in the coming years.

TABLE 15 – SUMMARY OF 2022 INDICATORS FOR MISSOURI CHILDREN UNDER AGE 19 PER 1,000 CHILDREN

	CHIP	MO HEALTHNET (MEDICAID)	NON-MO HEALTHNET (NON-MEDICAID)	NATIONAL BENCHMARK
Preventable Hospitalizations	4.9	7.9	3.5	7.2
Preventable Asthma Hospitalizations	0.7	1.4	0.4	.88
Emergency Department Visits	301.2	473.3	220.0	290
Asthma Emergency Department Visits	4.6	8.0	2.5	10.8

Rates are per 1,000 population. For non-CHIP population, age is under 18.

Data Sources: DHSS

CHIP and SMHB Expenditures

CHIP and SMHB are funded through federal and State appropriations (both through general State revenue and other State agency dollars). The State share, however, is a small fraction of the total CHIP expenditures in Missouri.

TABLE 16 – CHIP SFY 2022 EXPENDITURES

	CHIP	SMHB	GRAND TOTAL
State General Revenue	\$37,241,205.69	\$14,758,262.21	\$51,999,467.90
Other Funds	\$7,719,204.00	\$0	\$7,719,204.00
Federal Funds	\$144,273,737.35	\$47,233,824.17	\$191,507,561.52
Total	\$189,234,147.04	\$61,992,086.38	\$251,226,233.42

*Note: Other Funds include FRA, Pharmacy Rebate, Premium, PFRA and IGT.

CHIP/SMHB GOAL 5

GOAL 5

Promote member satisfaction with experience of care



The last goal of the QIS is to promote member satisfaction with experience of care. While not required by statute, an important indicator of the success of the CHIP and SMHB programs is reviewing member satisfaction with experience of care. If members do not have positive interactions with the health care system, they may be less likely to participate in preventive care, which could result in later increased costs (e.g., through unnecessary hospital visits). To that end, the Department reviewed available CAHPS data and compared results with national standards.

CAHPS results for four indicators related to satisfaction with experience of care are included in Table 17. Results for Missouri's CHIP program show that Missouri is above the national averages with respect to satisfaction related to actual providers and satisfaction with the child's health plan.

TABLE 17 – CAHPS SATISFACTION WITH EXPERIENCE OF CARE RESULTS AMONG CHIP PARTICIPANTS

CAHPS MEASURE	MISSOURI CHIP	NATIONAL HMO AVERAGE
Proportion of respondents that would rate all their child's health care in the last six months an 8 or higher on a scale from 0-10 where 0 is the worst health care possible and 10 is the best health care possible.	87.12%	86.16%
Proportion of respondents that would rate their child's personal doctor an 8 or higher on a scale from 0-10 where 0 is the worst personal doctor possible and 10 is the best personal doctor possible.	89.75%	89.33%
Proportion of respondents that would rate their child's specialist seen most often an 8 or higher on a scale from 0-10 where 0 is the worst specialist possible and 10 is the best specialist possible.	83.46%	85.63%
Proportion of respondents that would rate their child's health plan an 8 or higher on a scale from 0-10 where 0 is the worst health plan possible and 10 is the best health plan possible.	87.16%	86.21%

CONCLUSION

CHIP AND SMHB: INVESTING TODAY IN MISSOURI'S FUTURE



It has been over two decades since Missouri adopted its CHIP program. While the program has evolved over the years, one stalwart outcome has been **greater access** to health care for Missouri's children who otherwise would not have coverage—public or private. The rate of uninsured has decreased to 5.1% nationally in 2022 and progress has been made in improving health outcomes for children enrolled in the program. Satisfaction with the program also remains high among participants.

On July 1, 2019, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded 39 cooperative agreements in 25 states. Up to \$48 million was made available from the Helping Ensure Access for Little Ones, Toddlers and Hopeful Youth by Keeping Insurance Delivery Stable Act (Healthy Kids Act). Missouri was one of those awardees to enroll and retain eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP.²⁹

Improved health outcomes realized through CHIP and SMHB has been done with responsible

²⁹ <https://www.insurekidsnow.gov/>

stewardship of public resources and greater access to preventive care has helped children avoid emergency rooms and hospital stays. The data indicates that CHIP has not replaced private insurance coverage but rather fills a coverage gap for working families.

Longer-term health and financial benefits, as supported by the cited research, should also be considered in summarizing the impact of CHIP and SMHB in Missouri. Emerging evidence has suggested that greater access to health care coverage earlier in life supports long-term health, academic, and employment outcomes. These long-term outcomes of early access to care are especially promising in light of the relatively recent adoption of the SMHB program. Prenatal care provided through SMHB is improving birth outcomes. With continued support, the potential for other lifetime outcome improvements is exponential.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: CHIP PREMIUMS

APPENDIX 2: HOSPITALIZATION AND ER UTILIZATION RATES BY
PAYER/PROGRAM (2001-2021)

APPENDIX 3: DMH-DSS WRAPAROUND SERVICE CODES AND TITLES

SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT